

Back Up The Boys -- With **DONDS**

Labor League
Dept. Labor Library

The ONLY REALLY INDEPENDENT WEEKLY in Mecklenburg County PRINTED AND COMPILED IN CHARLOTTE AND MECKLENBURG COUNTY IN ITS ENTIRETY For a Weekly Its Readers Represent the LARGEST BUYING POWER in Charlotte

Back em Up!
KEEP BUYING WAR BONDS

The Charlotte Labor Journal

Endorsed by the N. C. State Federation of Labor

AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

Official Organ of Central Labor Union; Standing for the A. F. L.

KEEP FAITH WITH THEM!
BUY MORE WAR BONDS

VOL. XIV.—No. 51

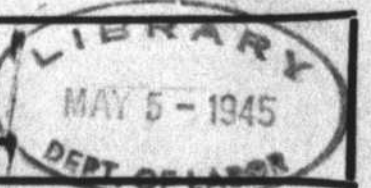
YOUR ADVERTISING IN THE JOURNAL IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1945

JOURNAL ADVERTISERS DESERVE CONSIDERATION OF THE READERS

\$2.00 Per Year

THE CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL ADVOCATES LOYALTY TO THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR; PROMOTION OF INDUSTRIAL PROSPERITY, AND CO-OPERATION OF ALL WORKERS ALONG EVERY LINE.



TALE OF TWO MAIL ORDER HOUSES AND ITS LABOR ATTITUDE MAKES GOOD READING FOR WORKERS

The 6th Regional War Labor Board with offices at Chicago, announced that it had reversed a previous directive and had granted partial approval to an application of Sears, Roebuck & Company of that city to raise the wages of some 7,847 out of the 10,488 employes of this premier mail order house to "correct gross inequities and eliminate sub-standards."

Among the job classifications granted increases were messenger, tube clerk and file clerk, 50 to 59 cents per hour; purchase order writer, 50 to 65 cents; clerk-record, 64-77 cents; special clerk-record, 70 1/2 to 86 cents; watch assembler, 72 to 86 cents. Adjustments in individual jobs to correct intra-plant equalities in addition to the approved increases also were granted.

While the wage rates in this field always were pitifully low, and as indicated by the voluntary action by the Sears, Roebuck management, still are, due to the fact that these workers previously were never organized—the Sears, Roebuck policy is in sharp contrast with that of its leading competitor, Montgomery-Ward & Company, which, under the dominance of the nation's number one labor-hater, Sewell Avery, spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to fight the unionization of its employes; defied the

War Labor Board; and was taken over twice, under presidential order, for violating the provision of the wartime labor relations act predicated on its adamant refusal to pay a minimum wage of 44 cents per hour, and live up to a signed agreement.

A stockholders' report issued early this month by Montgomery-Ward revealed that the firm had made larger profits than it ever did, in spite of the fact that it was taken over by the Army, spent vast sums to fight the union, and had more than \$70,000,000 in unfilled orders.

The contrast between the labor policies of these two giant mail order firms is striking and reveals how reactionary and exploitative the Montgomery-Ward management really is. How any fair-minded, right thinking American, whether he likes or dislikes organized labor, can uphold the Montgomery-Ward policy and attitude is literally beyond our understanding.

MECKLENBURG AND CHARLOTTE HAVE AN OVER-ALL QUOTA OF \$13,910,000 IN WAR BOND DRIVE

Mecklenburg County and Charlotte, with a quota of \$3,922,000 of Series "E" bonds, was allotted approximately 41 per cent of the \$9,396,000 Series "E" quota for the eight counties of North Carolina's Ninth Region in the current seventh loan drive.

Quotas made public by J. P. Robinson of Charlotte, regional chairman, totaled \$26,770,000 for all types of Federal securities offered in the campaign, with Mecklenburg County and Charlotte assigned an over-all quota of \$13,910,000.

Quotas for the other seven counties were announced, as follows (first figure is Series "E," second figure is over-all): Cabarrus, \$996,000, \$2,702,000; Cleveland, \$744,000, \$2,069,000; Gaston, \$1,660,000, \$4,698,000; Lincoln, \$375,000, \$462,000; Rutherford, \$530,000, \$1,214,000; Stanly, \$649,000, \$965,000; Union, \$520,000, \$750,000.

Campaign leaders here have announced that Series "E" bonds bought by payroll deductions and other funds between April 9 and July 7 will be credited against the proper community's Series "E" quota. The major campaign, however, will begin May 14.

MUSSOLINI'S END INGLORIOUS; FROM GLAMOUR TO THE GUTTER; THEN A RUDE WOODEN COFFIN

MILAN, May 1.—The beaten, misshapen body of Benito Mussolini lay last night in a rude wooden coffin in the Milan morgue, while still vengeful Italian Partisans, moving against other former Fascist leaders, were reported already to have tried and executed Marshal Rodolfo Graziani.

Demonstrations continued in Milan during the day as funerals were held for patriots who were killed in the revolt last week.

The bodies of Mussolini, 61-year-old former dictator and Fascist leader; his beautiful young mistress, Claretta Petacci; and 17 of his Fascist followers were removed to the morgue reportedly at the request of Cardinal Schuster, who had appealed to the people when Milan was liberated to suspend all cruelty and leave justice to regular tribunals.

After Mussolini and his companions had been shot by partisans near Como yesterday, the bodies were first thrown on the ground of the Piazza Quindici Martiri (square of the 15 martyrs, formerly the Piazza Loreta) where they were kicked and mutilated. Later, to make the macabre sight visible to more of the crowds milling constantly in the square, the bodies were hung by the heels from the girder of a filling station.

At the morgue last night, Mussolini's pasty white, grotesque body was in a rude white coffin to which was affixed a small scrap of white paper bearing in a penciled scrawl "Mussolini, Benito."

The top half of the coffin was

open, revealing the former dictator's battered head and chest. He appeared strangely small, like a hideous wax doll, except for his head, which was more massive in death than in life. His awl, apparently broken, jutted out in a horrible caricature of Il Duce's most characteristic pose.

In similar coffins, scattered around the room were the remains of Claretta Petacci and others killed by the partisans. The coffins of the men were labeled "unknown."

14,500,000 WORKERS ARE UNDER UNION CONTRACT SAYS BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS IN A REPORT

WASHINGTON.—Organized labor has reached its greatest strength in American history, the U. S. Department of Labor revealed last week.

"Some 14,500,000 workers were employed under collective bargaining contracts in January, 1945," according to a study made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. At the beginning of 1943, BLS reported that there were 13,000,000 workers under union contracts. In 1939 there were 8,000,000 U. S. workers covered by union contracts, BLS said in an official report in October of that year.

During the year 1944 there was an increase of more than 500,000 workers covered by union contracts. This "was equivalent to a 4.5 per cent rise in the proportion of employed covered by agreements," according to the "Monthly Labor Review," published by BLS.

Labor's strength under contracts is estimated but the BLS does not attempt to break down the total figure in terms of AFL, CIO and other union membership.

"The largest increases in the proportion of workers under agreement," the analysis found, "were in the tobacco and chemical industries and, to a less extent, in the canned and preserved foods industry."

The analysis also found that more than 90 per cent "of the production wage earners were working under union agreements in the aluminum, automobile, basic steel, brewery, fur, glass, men's clothing, rubber and shipbuilding industries."

JOURNAL'S ANNIVERSARY EDITION TO BE A WAR BOND EVENT

On May 17th The Labor Journal will celebrate its Fifteenth Birthday of continuous publication, and instead of usual run we have decided to devote it exclusively to promotion of the Seventh War Loan. Our many business friends have co-operated with us in the past in celebrating our anniversary, along with our local, State and National labor leaders to great degree, and we thank them. But these are crucial days, and while we are nearing the climax with one phase of our struggle, we still have Japan upon our hands, and our country is calling upon us for the necessary funds with which to bring it to a victorious conclusion.

We thank those who have gone down the line with us, in the past, and ask our friends for continued co-operation.

Free Labor Will Out- Produce Nazi Slaves "Fight - Work - Save"

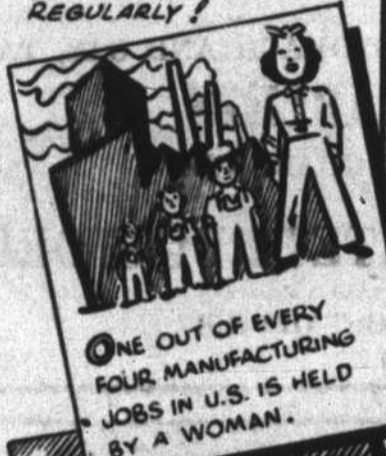
THE AFL PRESENTS ...

"BUILDERS OF VICTORY" The Dramatic Story of Labor's Own Seabees

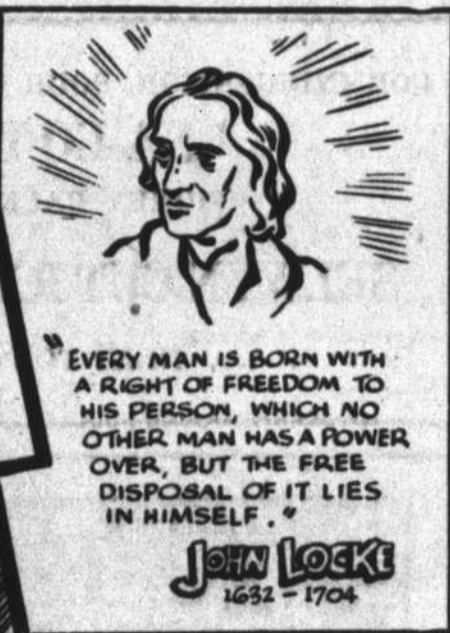
OVER CBS—EVERY SATURDAY—6:45 P.M., E.W.T.

THE MARCH OF LABOR

BUY U.S. WAR BONDS... REGULARLY!



ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR MANUFACTURING JOBS IN U.S. IS HELD BY A WOMAN.



EVERY MAN IS BORN WITH A RIGHT OF FREEDOM TO HIS PERSON, WHICH NO OTHER MAN HAS A POWER OVER, BUT THE FREE DISPOSAL OF IT LIES IN HIMSELF.

JOHN LOCKE 1632-1704



IN ITS ARGUMENT PRESENTED TO THE BITUMINOUS COAL COMMISSION IN 1919 THE UNITED MINE WORKERS SHOWED THAT EVEN IN THAT YEAR WITH WAGES AND PRICES AT THEIR PEAK THE PICK MINER IN ALL BITUMINOUS MINES MADE AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS OF \$1130.

YOU CAN BE SURE YOUR HAT IS UNION MADE IF IT BEARS THIS UNION LABEL.



OUT OF EVERY PAY ENVELOPE BUY WAR BONDS YOUR UNCLE SAM NEEDS HELP

THE RED CROSS LAUDS WORK OF LABOR-MGMT.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Recognition of labor-management teamwork in the nation's generous over-subscription to the 1945 American Red Cross War Fund was given today by Basil O'Connor, Red Cross Chairman, Irving Abramson, Chairman of the National CIO War Relief Committee, and Matthew Well, President of the Labor League for Human Rights (AFL). Their joint statement follows:

"The response of labor and management in the Red Cross campaign again has demonstrated the outstanding results that can be achieved through genuine cooperation among all elements of American communities. Through employee fund campaigns conducted in industrial plants and factories of this country, both worker and employer are successfully helping the American Red Cross to keep at the side of our fighting men and their families at home."

"Chairman O'Connor has announced that \$219,075,000 has been subscribed to the American Red Cross by the people of the United States.

"Much of the success of the 1945 Red Cross War fund Campaign is due to labor-management cooperation," he said.

Workers in the war-devastated countries still think in terms of democratic trade unions. The A. F. of L. is trying to help them regroup by raising a \$1,000,000 Free Trade Union Fund for reorganization purposes.

Labor abroad, working long hours at low pay, is a threat to our living standards in America. Support the A. F. of L.'s \$1,000,000 Free Trade Union Fund!

PATRONIZE THOSE WHO ADVERTISE IN THE JOURNAL

THIS TIME IT'S O.K. TO JUMP THE GUN!



The 7th War Loan starts in May.

It's the greatest yet. Uncle Sam needs 7 billion dollars of our money—almost as much in one chunk as was raised by this time last year in two!

The way to fulfill your obligation to the men who fight is to jump the gun—start now saving for your share of this gigantic loan.

26,000,000 smart Americans who belong to the Payroll Savings Plan have already started to save—spreading their War Bond purchase allotments over more pay checks.

Be ready for the 7th. You can do your full share if you think ahead and start now putting that dough aside for your country.

START SAVING NOW FOR THE MIGHTY 7TH!

BACK UP OUR FIGHTING AMERICAN MEN ON THE BATTLEFIELDS WORK — FIGHT — SAVE